

## **PART 2, CHAPTER 28**

### **FARMLAND**

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## PART 2, CHAPTER 28

### FARMLAND

#### 28.1 OVERVIEW

##### 28.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to outline the procedure for evaluating project impacts on farmland. See **Figure 28-1**. The **Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981, 7 CFR Part 658**, was established to minimize the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses by federal programs or by projects using federal assistance. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is responsible for ensuring that **FPPA** is implemented.

The term farmland as used in this chapter means prime or unique farmlands as defined in **7 CFR § 658.2(a)** or farmland that is determined by the appropriate state or unit of local government agency or agencies with concurrence of the USDA Secretary to be farmland of statewide local importance. “Farmland” does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage.

**FPPA** requirements apply to farmlands even if not in active use as cropland. Qualifying farmlands can be forest land, pastureland, cropland or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

Potential effects on farmlands may be identified in the Planning or Programming Screens during the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process (Chapters 3 and 4 of the [Efficient Transportation Decision Making Manual, Topic No. 650-000-002](#)). However, a farmland evaluation occurs later in the project development process after right of way (ROW) needs have been identified.

The **FPPA** applies only to projects which are completed by a federal agency or completed with financial or technical assistance from a federal agency. Non-Major State Actions (NMSA) and State Environmental Impact Reports (SEIR) are not subject to the provisions of the **FPPA** as there is no federal involvement.

##### 28.1.2 Authority

**Table 28-1** provides a summary of the relevant legislation, rules, and policies that govern the protection of farmland.

**TABLE 28.1 Federal Legislation and Policies Related to Farmland**

Title and Citation	Relevance
<i>National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended (42 USC § 4321)</i>	NEPA requires the examination and avoidance of potential impacts to the social and natural environment when considering approval of proposed transportation projects. In addition to evaluating the potential environmental effects, the NEPA process prescribes interagency cooperation, public involvement, and documentation. The level of required NEPA compliance and documentation depends largely upon the nature and degree of project impacts, which determine a “class of action” [Categorical Exclusion (CE), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)].
<i>Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 as amended (7 CFR § 658)</i>	The purpose of the FPPA is to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of important farmland to nonagricultural uses. FPPA applies only to federally funded activities that would convert important farmland to nonagricultural uses.
<i>Part 523 of the Farmland Protection Policy Act Manual</i>	Outlines the requirements of the FPPA of 1981

## 28.2 PROCEDURE

The farmland evaluation starts by determining if the project is subject to the **FPPA**. For projects screened through the ETDM process, Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) comments and degree of effect determinations for the “Farmlands” issue in the **Programming Screen Summary Report** should be reviewed. Comments by NRCS may state specifically that the project may affect farmland. While screening information is preliminary, it is useful in determining the scope of the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. Farmland evaluation during PD&E requires coordination with the NRCS.

**Figure 28-1** shows the process that Districts must use to document a farmland evaluation for a project. Most FDOT projects will be linear or corridor type projects requiring use of **Form NRCS-CPA-106**; other projects, such as parking areas, buildings, rest areas, require use of **Form AD-1006**.

During the PD&E Study, the District must follow the steps listed below:

1. Projects excluded from coordination with NRCS as discussed in **Section 28.2.1**; and
2. Provide documentation of projects excluded from coordination with NRCS as discussed in **Section 28.2.2**; or

3. Complete the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form for projects requiring coordination with NRCS as discussed in **Section 28.2.4**; and
4. Evaluate and document projects requiring coordination with NRCS to determine whether they have farmland involvement and are subject to the provisions of **FPPA** as discussed in **Section 28.2.5**.

The **Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects Form NRCS-CPA-106** is completed for linear or corridor type projects that convert farmland into nonagricultural use. It is anticipated that most projects will use this form. **Form AD 1006, Farmland Conversion Impact Rating**, is used for all other proposed projects (e.g., parking areas, buildings, rest areas) that may convert farmland to nonagricultural use. The District completes Parts I and III of **Form NRCS-CPA-106** or **Form AD 1006** and sends the form to the State Soil Scientist with the NRCS for farmland involvement determination. See **Section 28.3** for a link to these forms which can be populated online; copies are also provided in **Figure 28-2** and **Figure 28-3**, respectively.

If NRCS determines the project does not involve farmlands, then the **Form NRCS-CPA-106** or **Form AD 1006** will be returned to the District. The District will save the Form in the project file, and document the information in the project's Environmental Document. No further evaluation is required.

If NRCS determines the project involves farmlands, then NRCS will complete Parts II and IV of **Form NRCS-CPA-106** or **Form AD 1006** and compile a total point score on Part V of the Form, before it is returned to the District. The District will then complete Part VI of the Form and add the total points in Parts V and VI to determine the significance level of farmlands involved.

### 28.2.1 Projects Excluded From Coordination with NRCS

The following project categories do **not** require coordination with the NRCS:

1. Project activities not subject to provisions of **FPPA**:
  - a. Federal permitting and licensing;
  - b. Projects planned and completed without the assistance of a federal agency;
  - c. Projects beyond the planning stage or constructed prior to August 4, 1984 [**FPPA, 7 CFR § 658.2(c)(1)(ii)**];
  - d. Project construction is within an existing ROW acquired on or before August 4, 1984; and,

- e. Small acreages (i.e., 10 acres or less per linear mile or 3 acres where there is a project for an existing bridge or interchange) projects where a statewide, local, or tribal land evaluation site assessment (LESA) system has been approved by the State Conservationist. Acreage includes both direct and indirect conversions. These exemptions are to encourage improvements to existing highways, instead of new construction.

For additional exemptions see, ***NRCS FPPA Manual***.

2. Projects situated **entirely** within urbanized areas with approved comprehensive land use maps which have boundaries approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) **with no farmlands** located adjacent to a project corridor. Maps for urbanized areas are located in each District's planning section and include urbanized areas listed in **Table 28-2**.

**Table 28-2 Urbanized Areas in Florida Alphabetically**

Brooksville - Spring Hill	Bonita Springs – Naples	Cape Coral (includes Ft. Myers)
Deltona	Ft. Walton Beach	Gainesville
Homosassa Springs – Beverly Hills – Citrus Springs	Jacksonville	Kissimmee
Lady Lake – The Villages	Lakeland	Leesburg – Eustis
Miami (includes Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Hialeah, Hollywood, Pompano Beach, West Palm Beach)	North Port – Punta Gorda	Ocala
Orlando	Palm Bay – Melbourne	Palm Coast – Daytona Beach – Port Orange
Panama City	Pensacola	Port St. Lucie
St. Augustine	Sarasota – Bradenton	Sebastian – Vero Beach
Sebring – Avon Park	Tallahassee	Tampa – St. Petersburg (includes Clearwater)
Titusville	Winter Haven	Zephyrhills

U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Urbanized Areas

If the comprehensive land use maps show agricultural land use adjacent to the project corridor then coordination with NRCS is required, refer to **Section 28.2.4**. Note that the land use designation on the maps takes precedence over actual land use (i.e., lands currently being used for agricultural purposes but shown on the map as non-agricultural are considered as non-agricultural).

## **28.2.2 Documentation of Projects Excluded From Coordination with NRCS**

Projects are excluded from coordination with NRCS if they fall within the categories listed in **Section 28.2.1**. However, documentation is still required in the applicable Environmental Document for:

### **1. Type 1 Categorical Exclusions -**

Provide a statement that the provisions of the **FPPA** do not apply to this project and provide documentation of the reason why it is not applicable (e.g., no farmlands are involved, no federal assistance, etc.).

### **2. Type 2 Categorical Exclusions -**

For Type 2 CEs, a standard statement is not required. It is sufficient to mark the box "NoInv" for "no involvement" for category A.8 on the [Type 2 Categorical Exclusion Determination Form, No. 650-050-11](#).

### **3. Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements**

The following standard statements will be included in the Farmland section of the EA or EIS:

#### **a. Projects Not Subject to Provisions of *FPPA***

*"This project is not subject to the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981."*

Also provide documentation of the reason why it is not applicable (e.g., no farmlands are involved, no federal assistance, etc.)

#### **b. Urbanized areas approved by FHWA**

*"Through coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), it has been determined that the project area which is located in the urbanized area of (Name of urban area) does not meet the definition of farmland as defined in 7 CFR § 658. Therefore, the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 do not apply to this project."*

### 28.2.3 Projects Requiring Coordination with NRCS

The following projects require the completion of **Form NRCS-CPA-106** as specified in **Section 28.2.5**, and coordination with the NRCS.

1. Projects situated **entirely** within urbanized areas with maps which have boundaries approved by FHWA **with designated farmlands** adjacent to the project corridor. These maps are located in each District's planning section and include those urbanized areas listed in **Table 28-2**.
2. All non-urbanized areas.

These areas may have been identified during the Programming Screen; however, it is recommended that the urbanized area maps be reviewed during the PD&E phase when ROW needs have been conceptually defined.

### 28.2.4 Completion of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form

For projects which are not excluded from coordination with the NRCS per **Section 28.2.1**, the District will complete **Form NRCS-CPA-106** or **Form AD-1006** after ROW needs have been conceptually defined during the project development.

#### 28.2.4.1 Initial Evaluation - Completion of Parts I and III

The initial evaluation consists of the District completing Parts I and III of **Form NRCS-CPA 106** or **Form AD-1006**, as described below, and providing the form to the NRCS, which completes Part II. Note, descriptions are specific to **Form NRCS-CPA-106** and similar to **Form AD 1006**.

#### PART I

##### **Name of Project:**

Provide the local name of the project and Financial Management number (e.g., SR-7, Volusia Avenue, 79060-1514).

##### **Type of Project:**

##### **Date of Land Evaluation Request:**

Provide the month, day, and year when Parts I and III are completed.

##### **Federal Agency Involved:**



Enter Federal Highway Administration, or other Lead Federal Agency.

**County and State:**

Enter county and state (Florida) where project is located.

**PART III**

**A. Total Acres to be Converted Directly:**

Provide an estimate of the number of acres of additional ROW required for each project alternative.

**B. Total Acres to be Converted Indirectly:**

Provide the estimated number of acres for each alternative that would be unusable for farmland due to access restriction.

**C. Total Acres in Corridor:**

Provide an estimate of the total number of acres of existing plus additional ROW required for each alternative.

**28.2.4.2 Actions Taken After Completion of Parts I and III**

Upon completion of Parts I and III, the District must send **Form NRCS-CPA 106** or **Form AD-1006** and a project location map (preferably GIS shape files of project boundaries and alternatives) to:

State Soil Scientist  
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
2614 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 141510  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1510  
(352) 338-9535

The NRCS prefers to receive these forms by email. The Soil Scientist's email address may be obtained by calling the phone number above.

NRCS will either complete Parts II, IV, and V (Part V will contain a value rating of between 0 and 100, with the higher the rating the greater the impact) or mark a NO in Part II indicating that no farmlands are involved. NRCS will respond within 10 days of receipt except where a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, which gives them 30 days. Where NRCS fails to provide its response within the required period, the proposed project can proceed as though the site were not farmland, if further delay would interfere with construction activities, **FPPA, 7 CFR § 658.4(a)**. The Environmental

Document must contain a statement that NRCS failed to provide land evaluation information within the required period, allowing the agency to proceed as if the site were not farmland.

If no farmland involvement is indicated on the form and the project is located in an urbanized area or non-urbanized area, then provide the appropriate documentation in the Environmental Document as shown in **Sections 28.2.2** and **28.2.3**, respectively.

If farmland involvement is indicated on the form, then refer to **Section 28.2.4.3** for direction on completing Parts VI and VII of the form. Once **Form NRCS-CPA 106** or **Form AD-1006** has been updated, the District will send a copy of the completed form to the NRCS.

### **28.2.4.3 Second Evaluation - Completion of Parts VI and VII**

#### **PART VI**

Part VI contains corridor-type site assessment criteria to be completed by the District. These criteria assess the impact of each specific design alternative within a project corridor alignment for conversion of farmland. See **7 CFR § 658.5(c)** for an explanation of assessment and scoring criteria.

Upon assigning points to all criteria, add all the points and write the total in the row with the heading **TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS**.

#### **PART VII**

##### **Relative Value of Farmland (From Part V):**

Enter the relative value of farmland to be converted indicated in Part V.

##### **Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI or a local site assessment):**

Enter the total site assessment points from Part VI.

### **28.2.4.4 Actions Taken After Completion of Parts VI and VII**

The total number of points indicated in Part VII is used to determine the level of significance given to farmland involvement as stated below:

1. Corridors receiving a total score of **less than 160** points need not be given further protection consideration and no additional corridors need to be evaluated.
2. Corridors receiving a total score of **160 points or more** require stronger consideration for protection of farmland. Consider the following options:

- a. Use of existing structures or land that is not farmland;
- b. Use alternative corridors and designs that would meet the project purpose and need but convert either fewer acres of farmland or other farmland that has a relative lower value; or,
- c. Siting requirements of the project purpose and need and the extent to which an alternative site fails to satisfy the siting requirements as well as the originally selected site.

For corridor-type projects, the alternative with the lowest number of points should be selected. In the event this alternative is not selected, the Environmental Document shall discuss the reason this alternative was not selected.

## **28.2.5 Documentation of Projects Requiring Coordination with NRCS**

Documentation of the assessment of farmland in an EA or EIS will be in the form of standard statements, except where farmlands are involved. The following standard statements or documentation are to be included in the Environmental Document, depending on involvement.

### **28.2.5.1 Projects With No Farmland Involvement**

1. Type 2 Categorical Exclusion: For Type 2 CEs with no farmland involvement for either urbanized or non-urbanized areas, mark the box "NoInv" for "no involvement" for category A.8 on the [Type 2 Categorical Exclusion Determination Form, Form No. 650-050-11](#). Coordination documents with NRCS or **Form NRCS-CPA-106** or **Form AD-1006**, indicating no involvement, should be referenced in the Type 2 CE documentation and included in the project file
2. Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement:
  - a. In urbanized areas:

The following standard statement will be written in the EA or EIS as follows:

*Through coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, it has been determined that the project area which is located in the urbanized area of (Name of urban area) does not meet the definition of farmland as defined in 7 CFR § 658. Therefore, the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 do not apply to this project.*

- b. In non-urbanized areas:

The following standard statement will be written in the EA or EIS as follows:

*Through coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, it has been determined that no farmlands as defined by 7 CFR § 658 are located in the project vicinity.*

### **28.2.5.2 Projects With Farmland Involvement**

The following information is to be discussed in the Farmland section of the Environmental Document, regardless of whether the projects is a Type 2 CE, EA, or EIS:

1. Quantification of farmland involvement
2. Coordination with NRCS
3. Viable alternative corridors
4. Project impacts and mitigation

The Environmental Document must document the assessment and coordination processes and provide the rationale for decisions made during the farmland evaluation. In addition, the Environmental Document should address any issues/concerns that may have been raised by the ETAT during the project's ETDM Screening and address any comments received through project development, the public involvement process, or public hearing, as applicable.

## **28.3 REFERENCES**

Florida Department of Transportation, 2015. Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Manual. Topic No. 650-000-002

U.S. Census Bureau, Florida 2010, 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Pgs 29-33, issued September 2012

NRCS Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (AD-1006), [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045394.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045394.pdf)

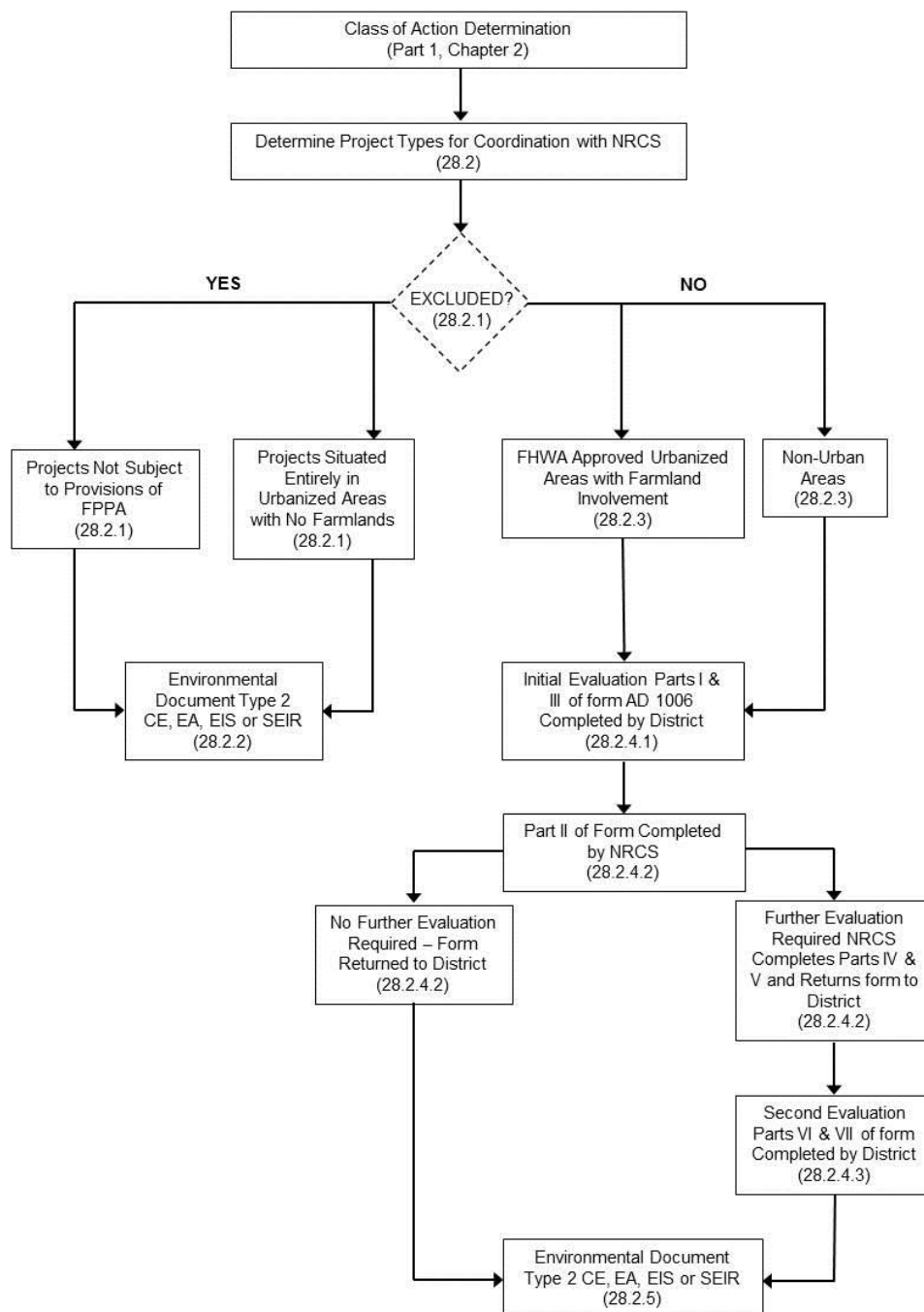
NRCS Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form for Corridor Type Projects (NRCS-CPA-106), [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045395.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045395.pdf)

NRCS, Farmland Protection Policy Act Manual, [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1097009.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1097009.pdf).  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/fppa/>

USDA, Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 CFR § 658

## **28.4 HISTORY**

06/26/2000, 09/14/2005, 05/11/2010



**Figure 28-1 Farmland Evaluation Process**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Natural Resources Conservation Service		NRCS-CPA-106 (Rev. 1-91)	
<b>FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS</b>			
<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project		5. Federal Agency Involved	
2. Type of Project		6. County and State	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size	
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: _____ % _____		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: _____ % _____
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment _____</b>	
		Corridor A	Corridor B
		Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services			
C. Total Acres In Corridor			
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>			
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value			
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>			
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>		Maximum Points	
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20	
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10	
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25	
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5	
8. On-Farm Investments		20	
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25	
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10	
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0
		0	0
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>			
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	0
		0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260	0
		0	0
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			
Signature of Person Completing this Part:		DATE	
NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor			
<a href="#">Clear Form</a>			

**Figure 28-2 Form NRCS-CPA-106 (Page 1 of 2)**

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NRCS-CPA-106 (Reverse)

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### CORRIDOR - TYPE SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following criteria are to be used for projects that have a linear or corridor - type site configuration connecting two distant points, and crossing several different tracts of land. These include utility lines, highways, railroads, stream improvements, and flood control systems. Federal agencies are to assess the suitability of each corridor - type site or design alternative for protection as farmland along with the land evaluation information.

- (1) How much land is in nonurban use within a radius of 1.0 mile from where the project is intended?  
More than 90 percent - 15 points  
90 to 20 percent - 14 to 1 point(s)  
Less than 20 percent - 0 points
  - (2) How much of the perimeter of the site borders on land in nonurban use?  
More than 90 percent - 10 points  
90 to 20 percent - 9 to 1 point(s)  
Less than 20 percent - 0 points
  - (3) How much of the site has been farmed (managed for a scheduled harvest or timber activity) more than five of the last 10 years?  
More than 90 percent - 20 points  
90 to 20 percent - 19 to 1 point(s)  
Less than 20 percent - 0 points
  - (4) Is the site subject to state or unit of local government policies or programs to protect farmland or covered by private programs to protect farmland?  
Site is protected - 20 points  
Site is not protected - 0 points
  - (5) Is the farm unit(s) containing the site (before the project) as large as the average - size farming unit in the County ?  
(Average farm sizes in each county are available from the NRCS field offices in each state. Data are from the latest available Census of Agriculture, Acreage or Farm Units in Operation with \$1,000 or more in sales.)  
As large or larger - 10 points  
Below average - deduct 1 point for each 5 percent below the average, down to 0 points if 50 percent or more below average - 9 to 0 points
  - (6) If the site is chosen for the project, how much of the remaining land on the farm will become non-farmable because of interference with land patterns?  
Acreage equal to more than 25 percent of acres directly converted by the project - 25 points  
Acreage equal to between 25 and 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 1 to 24 point(s)  
Acreage equal to less than 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 0 points
  - (7) Does the site have available adequate supply of farm support services and markets, i.e., farm suppliers, equipment dealers, processing and storage facilities and farmer's markets?  
All required services are available - 5 points  
Some required services are available - 4 to 1 point(s)  
No required services are available - 0 points
  - (8) Does the site have substantial and well-maintained on-farm investments such as barns, other storage building, fruit trees and vines, field terraces, drainage, irrigation, waterways, or other soil and water conservation measures?  
High amount of on-farm investment - 20 points  
Moderate amount of on-farm investment - 19 to 1 point(s)  
No on-farm investment - 0 points
  - (9) Would the project at this site, by converting farmland to nonagricultural use, reduce the demand for farm support services so as to jeopardize the continued existence of these support services and thus, the viability of the farms remaining in the area?  
Substantial reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 25 points  
Some reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 1 to 24 point(s)  
No significant reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 0 points
  - (10) Is the kind and intensity of the proposed use of the site sufficiently incompatible with agriculture that it is likely to contribute to the eventual conversion of surrounding farmland to nonagricultural use?  
Proposed project is incompatible to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 10 points  
Proposed project is tolerable to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 9 to 1 point(s)  
Proposed project is fully compatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 0 points
- 

**Figure 28-2 Form NRCS-CPA-106 (Page 2 of 2)**



U.S. Department of Agriculture								
FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING								
<b>PART I</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)				Date Of Land Evaluation Request				
Name of Project				Federal Agency Involved				
Proposed Land Use				County and State county and state				
<b>PART II</b> (To be completed by NRCS)				Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)				YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %			Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System			Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS				
<b>PART III</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)				Alternative Site Rating				
				Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly								
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly								
C. Total Acres In Site								
<b>PART IV</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information								
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland								
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland								
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted								
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value								
<b>PART V</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)								
<b>PART VI</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)				Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use				(15)				
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use				(10)				
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed				(20)				
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government				(20)				
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area				(15)				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services				(15)				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average				(10)				
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland				(10)				
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services				(5)				
10. On-Farm Investments				(20)				
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services				(10)				
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use				(10)				
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS				160	0	0	0	0
<b>PART VII</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)								
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)				100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)				160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)				260	0	0	0	0
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				
Reason For Selection:								
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: (See Instructions on reverse side)								
Date:								

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Figure 28-3 Form AD-1006 (Page 1 of 2)

**STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM**

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at [http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip\\_public/USA\\_map](http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map), or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM**

*(For Federal Agency)*

**Part I:** When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

**Part III:** When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

**Part VI:** Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

**Part VII:** In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$
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For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.

**Figure 28-3 Form AD-1006 (Page 2 of 2)**

Federal Highway Administration, Technical Advisory T 6640.8A, Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey,  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

US Census Bureau Mapper, <http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1993. Agricultural Handbook 18, Soil Survey Manual,  
[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/planners/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_054261](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/planners/?cid=nrcs142p2_054261)

USDA NRCS National Soil Survey Handbook,  
[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_054242](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/?cid=nrcs142p2_054242)

**Figure 28-4 Additional Resource Information**